

REMARKS

Claims 74-79 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of September 23, 2003, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Claims 74-79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oellerking in view of Weber. Claims 74-79 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Weber in view of Oellerking. The Examiner's position is that the claims do not exclude the possibility of a welding portion extending all the way across a welding fabric.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. The claims have now been amended to recite that the welding portion extends only across part of the width of the welding fabric. Support for these amendments to the claims can be found in the specification as filed at page 2, first full paragraph, in which it states that the welding portion extends partially or completely over the sides of the fabric; and at page 3, last line through first paragraph of page 4. Also, at

page 6, third paragraph, the specification states, "the welding portion A can be made on both sides of the fabric for welding 1 as shown in Figure 4A, or can be made the middle part of the fabric, as shown in Figure 4B. Also, auxiliary fixing means such as straps can also be provided where desired."

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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